

SRTS Caregiver Survey

2025-26 Results Report



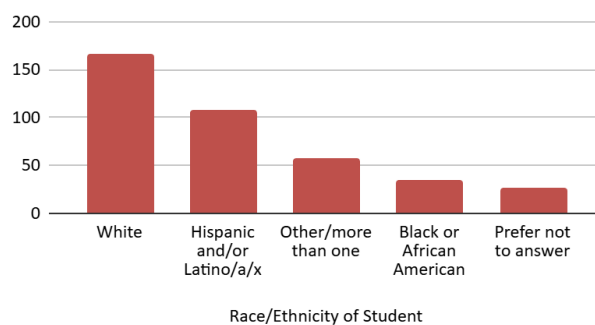
What is the SRTS Parent Survey?

The SRTS Caregiver Survey is a tool used by SRTS programs to learn about student family perceptions of walking and biking as it relates to their school-aged children.

How was the survey conducted?

The SRTS Parent Survey was distributed to families of Richfield Public Schools in November 2025, via digital communications platforms and on-site at Centennial Elementary's school conferences. It was administered in both English and Spanish. The District received 396 responses—385 from our elementary and secondary schools. 17% of our responses were in Spanish-language. District wide, our survey response rate was 10% overall, with white student families being overrepresented and our secondary school student families underrepresented.

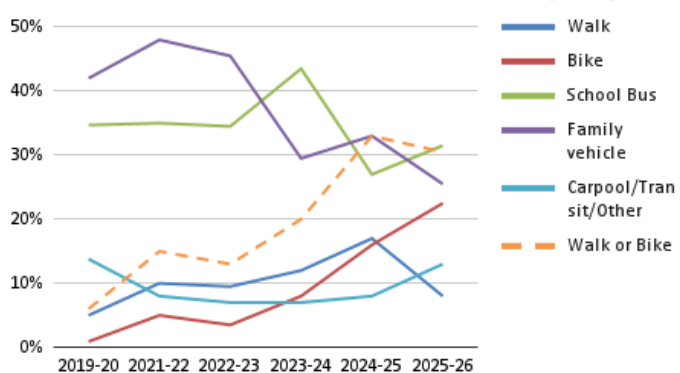
Race/Ethnicity of Student



What survey results encourage us the most?

For the first time since we started facilitating this survey in 2019-20 the percentage of students grades 6-12 walking or biking to and from school exceeded the number of students going to school in a family vehicle 31% to 26%! This indicates our walking and biking education units in elementary school over the past several years are paying dividends now at the secondary school level.

How Does Your Child Arrive/Leave School (6-12)

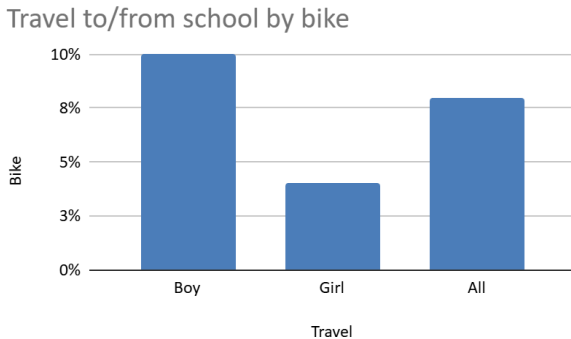


Another encouraging result was the answer to a new question on the 2025-26 survey: When you think about your child walking or biking to school, what is your initial reaction? 58% of respondents reported having a positive reaction to the thought of their child walking or biking to school.

We were also encouraged by a rebound in the percentage of parents and caregivers who would feel comfortable allowing their child to walk or bike to school by 5th grade. Last year this number decreased from an all-time high of 37.6% to 25.5%. This year the percentage rebounded significantly and now 32.6% of parents and caregivers feel comfortable allowing their child to walk or bike to school by 5th grade.

What survey results challenge us the most?

This year we discovered a significant dip in our district-wide walk rates, decreasing from a high of 13% last year to 8% this year. While much of this dip in walk rates can be attributed to a 12 point drop in walk rates among our Hispanic and/or Latino/a/x students, we also dropped two points when sorting for non-Hispanic and/or Latino/a/x students as well. Further evaluation will be needed to determine why our walk rates have decreased across all racial groups in the district this year.

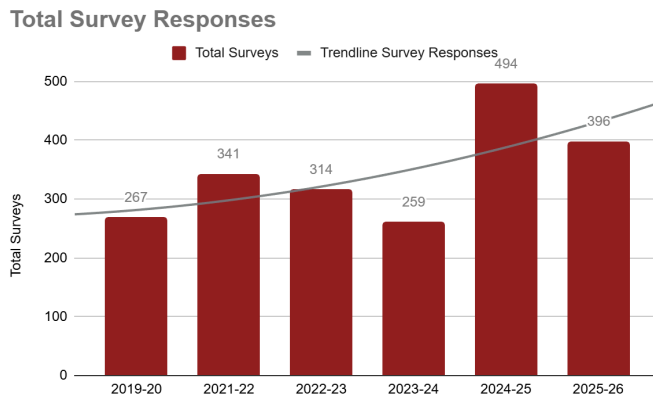


Another challenge we saw is the difference in bike rates by gender—boy and girl—widened this year. Historically, boys bike to school more than girls across the district, but this year parents and caregivers reported 10% of boys traveled to school on a bike, while indicating only 4% of girls did the same. These numbers were 8% and 6%, respectively, last year. Reevaluating our bike education and encouragement initiatives can help us close this gender gap in the future.

What trends are emerging?

Now that the SRTS program is in our seventh year and we have completed six SRTS Caregiver Surveys, we are better able to notice emerging trends for the SRTS program..

One positive trend we observed is our total number of survey respondents. While overall responses decreased this year compared to last year we understand last year was an outlier where we had MnDOT supplemental support for our engagement efforts. This year we had our second-highest number of responses over the history of this survey, and we see this as an indication our engagement efforts district-wide for the SRTS program are working.



Another trend we are noticing is the continued increase in students biking to school for grades 4-12 (14%) and grades 6-12 (23%). Last year we were at 12% and 16% respectively. In 2022-23, those numbers were 4% for both groups. Richfield students begin learning bike safety skills in 4th grade, and it is clear as we teach our students bike safety education they are increasingly choosing to bike to school.

What else did we learn from the SRTS Parent Survey?

This year we saw a significant drop in walk rates among our Hispanic and/or Latino/a/x students—8%, compared to 20% last year. These decreases in students walking to school are in spite of the fact that this demographic group is as likely as all survey respondents to have a generally positive reaction to the idea of students walking or biking to school (57% to 58%, respectively), and 95% of respondents from this group indicating walking or biking to school is healthy/very healthy for their children. The decrease in walking to school for this demographic group stretches across all grade levels and at six of our seven schools, so we understand walking to school has decreased for this community of student families as a whole throughout the district. Our continued efforts to implement a trauma informed approach to the SRTS program informs us of two things: Walking has decreased this year because there is increased stress due to the current sociopolitical climate, reducing felt safety and increasing concern for students among our Hispanic and/or Latino/a/x student family community this year; and, we need to use extra care with our engagement and encouragement efforts so we do not compound the trauma these folks are experiencing. Growth is not always linear and/or quantifiable, and true growth in our SRTS program among our Hispanic and/or Latino/a/x student family community now will be achieved by providing space and offering support, without the expectation we will increase walking numbers for these students in the near future.

How do we use survey data?

We take the responses provided by our caregivers seriously. The primary purpose of the survey is to inform and guide the work of the SRTS Coordinator. Survey data is also evaluated and discussed by the district's SRTS Committee—a team of school district employees, staff of various local government departments and other community members. This collaboration has led to community improvements away from school district campuses—including new pedestrian crossing treatments at intersections around the community and fun summer programming events to supplement our bike education.

All the data is divided into school-specific reports and shared with building principals. Anonymous data is also shared with state and federal SRTS agencies to track national trends as well.

What else should you know about SRTS?

You can always share additional feedback or learn more about the program at richfieldschools.org/depts-progs/safe-routes-to-school